

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending. All claims 1-58 are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

Various amendments to the Specification are made to correct obvious typographical errors. Support for the amendments made to the paragraphs beginning at page 11, line 15 and at page 11, line 22 in which "0.0" is replaced with "1.0" in reference to release and attack rate parameters can be found, for example, in FIG. 4, blocks 92 and 96, respectively.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 20, 21, and 25-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindemann in view of Kong.

In independent claim 1, the dynamic range associated with each signal component is controlled (by the second instructions) by dynamically adjusting a gain factor (a) after applying the gain factor to a current sample of the signal component and (b) in response to comparison of the current sample to a threshold level.

Neither Lindemann nor Kong, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such a feature. Lindemann, at col. 5, lines 40-46, is cited as disclosing the second instructions for independently and dynamically controlling a dynamic range associated with each one of the plurality of signal components (dynamic range compression gain calculation and application). However, Lindemann does not disclose that the gain factor is adjusted (a) after applying the gain factor to a current sample of the signal component and (b) in response to comparison of the current sample to a threshold level.

Similarly, Kong at col. 3, lines 45-62 is cited as disclosing preamplification of a speech signal prior to band-specific automatic gain control (AGC) processing which uses an inherent threshold for determining what frequencies are the higher frequencies that require a faster attack time in gain control.

However, the second instructions in independent claim 1 are to control a dynamic range associated with each one of the plurality of signal components (each corresponding to a frequency band). In other words, the gain factor in claim 1 is used to control the dynamic range for each signal component, i.e., each frequency band, and thus is band-specific.

In addition, similar to Lindemann, Kong does not disclose that the gain factor is adjusted (a) after applying the gain factor to a current sample of the signal component and (b) in response to comparison of the current sample to a threshold level.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and claims 2-6, 20, 21, and 25-40 dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 9, 12-19, 22-24, and 41-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindemann in view of Kong, and further in view of Allen.

However, the addition of the additional secondary reference Allen does not make up for the deficiencies of Lindemann in view of Kong as discussed above. Thus claims 8, 9, 12-19, and 22-24 dependent from claim 1 are allowable at least for the same or similar reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1.

In addition, similar to independent claim 1, each of independent claims 41 and 52-57 also recites that the dynamic range associated with each signal component is controlled by dynamically adjusting a gain factor (a) after applying the gain factor to a current sample of the signal component and (b) in response to comparison of the current sample to a threshold level. Thus, because the addition of the additional secondary reference Allen does not make up for the deficiencies of Lindemann in view of Kong as discussed above, independent claims 41 and 52-57 and claims 42-51 dependent from claim 41, are also allowable at least for the same or similar reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 9, 12-19, 22-24, and 41-57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindemann in view of Kong, and further in view of Mead. Claim 58 stands rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindemann in view of Kong, and further in view of Takeo.

However, the addition of either of the additional secondary references Mead and Takeo does not make up for the deficiencies of Lindemann in view of Kong as discussed above. Thus claims 10, 11, and 58 dependent from claim 1 are allowable at least for the same or similar reasons set forth above with reference to claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 05-002).

Respectfully submitted,



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